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Of Note

Mandatory weigh-ins
Jan. 20-31
A mandatory weigh-in for all 377th Air Base Wing assigned personnel is Jan. 20-31. All personnel must be weighed and measured, including those on TDY or TDA who must comply before departure or upon return.

TODAY
High 50
Low 24

TOMORROW
High 51
Low 29

SUNDAY
High 52
Low 30

Force Protection Condition ALPHA+

Straight Talk, 853-4636
Emergency, SNOW Line, 853-7669



Photo by Dennis Carlson

Home for Christmas

BY STAFF SGT. MARKUS M. MAIER
377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The song "I'll be home for Christmas" likely was on the minds of 17 members of the 377th Security Forces Squadron returning at 1:15 a.m. on Christmas Day after a 90-day deployment to Southeast Asia.

Col. Kathleen Close, 377th Air Base Wing commander, Chief Master Sgt. Audrey Thompson, 377th Air Base Wing command chief, Lt. Col. Keith Harris, 377th Security Forces Squadron commander, and family members of the returning Airmen were among the people at Albuquerque International Sunport welcoming the airmen back home.

"The support received from the wing, family members and the community, welcoming our security forces back from deployment was tremendous!" Harris said. "We truly received a great gift this holiday season, having our troops safe at home for Christmas."

Above: Returning 377th Security Forces Squadron members are greeted by family members at Albuquerque International Sunport late Christmas Eve.

Below: Lt. Col. Keith Harris, 377th Security Forces Squadron commander, welcomes back one of his Airmen, Master Sgt. Anthony W. Stevenson.



Photo by Dennis Carlson

TRICARE announces health care information theft

The TRICARE Management Activity announced this week that computer equipment and files were stolen Dec. 14 from its TRICARE Central Region health contractor, TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp. in Phoenix, Ariz.

TriWest contracts with the Military Health System to provide health services to service members, their families and retirees. The equipment and files were used to help deliver health care services to these beneficiaries residing mostly in central and western states of the United States.

Affected areas are Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and extreme Western Texas.

The total impact of the theft is still being assessed. The case is being investigated by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, FBI and other law enforcement agencies.

The Defense Department, after learning of the theft from TriWest on Dec. 20, began working with them to ensure uninterrupted delivery of medical benefits in the wake of the break-in. As more information is known about the theft, the department will ensure that TriWest will be in touch with affected beneficiaries.

TriWest will contact affected individuals and (has) established both a toll-free number and an e-mail address for TRICARE beneficiaries who have questions about what they need to know and do.

The department has ordered all contractors working with the TRICARE system to assess their current physical and electronic security.

For further information, beneficiaries may call toll-free at 1-888-339-9378 or e-mail questions to computertheft@triwest.com